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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,452	03/20/2001	Kevin W. Spear	18360/205526	1926

826 7590 01/04/2008  
ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA  
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER
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KESACK, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3691

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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09812452	3/20/2001	SPEAR, KEVIN W.	18360/205526

ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
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**EXAMINER**

Dan Kesack

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20080102

**DATE MAILED:**

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**Commissioner for Patents**

Application/Control Number:  
09/812,452  
Art Unit: 3691

Page 2

1. The reply brief filed September 20, 2007 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

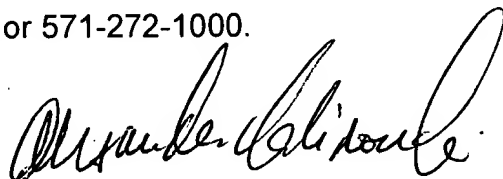
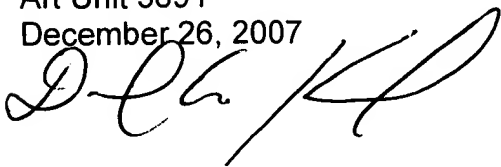
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Kesack whose telephone number is 571-272-5882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Kesack  
Art Unit 3691  
December 26, 2007



ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER